

**JOINT MEETING
BETWEEN
FOSTER TOWN COUNCIL, GLOCESTER TOWN COUNCIL, FOSTER
SCHOOL COMMITTEE, GLOCESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND
FOSTER/GLOCESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Foster Meeting House
181 Howard Hill Road
Foster, RI**

February 26, 2009

Open Session – 7:00PM

1. CONVENE MEETING:

The Vice Chair of Foster Town Council, John Lewis, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL:

Four members of the Foster Town Council, John Lewis, Joe Cardillo, Lynne Ryder, Roger Hawes (Collette Matteress was absent), three members of the Gloucester Town Council, Walter Steere III, George Steere, Jr., Kevin Walsh (arrived several minutes into the meeting), Five members of the Gloucester School Committee, Chris Hebert, Walter Steere, Anne Ejnes, Beth Keeling, Steven Sette, (Peter Skeffington was absent), three members of the Foster School Committee, Ron Cervasio, Dennis Chretien, Cindy Bernard and Eight members of the Foster/Glocester School Committee were present. Foster's Town Solicitor, John Bevilaqua and Foster /Glocester Solicitor, Greg Piccirilli, Regional Superintendent, Michael Barnes and Foster Superintendent, Robert Wallace, Gloucester Finance Director, Tom Mainville, and Regional Business Manager, Sara Hann were also present.

4. REORGANIZATION OF THE AGENDA

On a motion by Lynne Rider and seconded by Mr. Cardillo the Councils approved to move the item of 'Discussion of the Regional Budget with the Foster and Gloucester Town Councils' up on the agenda.

5. REGIONAL SCHOOL BUDGET DISCUSSION WITH THE FOSTER & GLOCESTER TOWN COUNCILS

The floor was turned over to Dr. Barnes for an explanation of the Regional Budget for 2009-2010. Dr. Barnes explained to the Town Councils that the Region has a debt service of \$545,000 (which will be reimbursed) and an operating budget of \$545,000. Therefore, the budget is a zero percent increase. This budget is designed to have a zero percent impact. A discussion followed.

Dr. Barnes felt that the Towns are facing many fiscal challenges and the fifty year history between the Towns and the Region can not be absorbed. Dr. Barnes is faced with two charges: 1. providing a quality education to the students of Foster and Glocester and 2. the dollars received from the Tax payers are wisely and responsibly spent.

Mr. Lewis announced that this was a good point to recess. No motion was made to recess.

After a short break the Foster Town Council continued with their agenda items.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough
School Committee Clerk